

Appl. No. 10/729,768  
Amdt. dated February 15, 2005  
Reply to Office Action mailed October 18, 2004

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (New): A retractor comprising:

a shaft; and

an inflatable bladder disposed at an end of the shaft, wherein the inflatable bladder has a non-uniform shape.

Claim 16 (New): The retractor of claim 15, wherein the inflatable bladder does not stretch when fully inflated.

Claim 17 (New): The retractor of claim 15, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at pressures from 10 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.

Claim 18 (New): The retractor of claim 17, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from 100 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.

Claim 19 (New): The retractor of claim 15, wherein the shaft is rigid.

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Claim 20 (New): The retractor of claim 15, wherein the shaft is flexible.

Claim 21 (New): The retractor of claim 15, further comprising a cannula having a passage which receives the shaft to deploy the bladder at a target site in tissue.

Claim 22 (New): The retractor of claim 15, wherein the inflatable bladder has a shape selected from the group consisting of circular, oval, eccentric, oblong, conical, and wedge-shaped.

Claim 23 (New): The retractor of claim 15, wherein the bladder comprises a wedge-shaped bladder.

Claim 24 (New): The retractor of claim 23, wherein the bladder comprises a wedge-shaped bladder having an accordion structure.

Claim 25 (New): The retractor of claim 15, wherein the bladder has an accordion structure.